

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR:DCS
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
S/S-MR. TARNOFF
C: QUANDT

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O 311341Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 124676

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XF, PFOR

SUBJECT: CROWN PRINCE FAHD VISIT

1. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD CONVEY TO YOUR HOST GOVERNMENTS THE FOLLOWING POINTS REGARDING CROWN PRINCE FAHD'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON.
2. THE PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED HIS DEDICATION TO A PERMANENT AND JUST PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE ATTITUDE OF THE ARAB LEADERS HE HAD MET AND THAT 1977 MAY BE THE BEST YEAR IN DECADES FOR PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE.

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3. NOTING THAT CONCERNS HAD BEEN EXPRESSED AT THE OUTCOME OF THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS AND AT STATEMENTS BY MR. BEGIN, THE PRESIDENT POINTED OUT HE HAD INCLUDED IN HIS NOTRE DAME SPEECH A REFERENCE TO OUR EXPECTATION THAT ISRAEL AND THE OTHER PARTIES TO THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD REMAIN BOUND BY THEIR COMMITMENTS TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. HE MADE CLEAR THAT WE INTENDED TO CONTINUE ON THE

COURSE WE HAVE SET, WORKING FOR CONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE THIS YEAR, AND THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING TO THIS END WITH THE NEW ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER ONCE A GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN FORMED. MEANWHILE, IT WOULD BE BEST IF EVERYONE REMAINED CALM DURING THE PERIOD AN ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WAS BEING FORMED.

4. PRINCE FAHD AGREED THAT ONE SHOULD NOT PREJUDGE THE SITUATION AND SAID THERE HAD BEEN A CONSENSUS AT THE RECENT MEETING WITH SADAT AND ASAD IN RIYADH THAT THE ARABS SHOULD MAINTAIN STEADY NERVES DURING THIS PERIOD. FAHD STRESSED SAUDI ARABIA'S DESIRE FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT, NOTING THAT THE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE DAMAGING TO THE AREA AND THE WHOLE WORLD AND WOULD GIVE THE SOVIETS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLOIT FOR THEIR ADVANTAGE.

5. THE PRESIDENT RECALLED THAT HE HAD STATED THE U.S. BASES ITS POSITION ON RESOLUTION 242 WHICH IN OUR VIEW ALLOWS FLEXIBILITY FOR MINOR MODIFICATIONS IN THE 1967 BORDERS. HE RECALLED THAT WE HAVE ALSO SUPPORTED A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, WHILE LEAVING THE DEFINITION OF A HOMELAND OPEN FOR NEGOTIATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT SOME HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERNS THAT AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE MIGHT BE UNSTABLE AND SUBJECT TO UNFRIENDLY OUTSIDE INFLUENCE, AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN SUGGESTIONS FOR LINKING A PALESTINIAN ENTITY WITH JORDAN.

6. FAHD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT WITHOUT PROVIDING FOR AN INDEPENDENT SECRET

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PALESTINIAN STATE. HE WAS CONVINCED SUCH A STATE WOULD BE STABLE AND COULD LIVE IN PEACE WITH ISRAEL AND THAT IT WOULD DEVELOP NATURAL LINKS WITH JORDAN AFTER IT WAS ESTABLISHED.

7. THE PRESIDENT ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF AGREEING ON STEPS TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS IN ORDER TO GIVE ISRAEL CONFIDENCE IN THE DURABILITY OF A SETTLEMENT. FAHD FELT SUCH STEPS WOULD EVOLVE LATER IN THE NATURE OF THINGS BUT COULD NOT BE FORCED. FIRST IT WAS IMPORTANT TO CREATE A BETTER PSYCHOLOGICAL ATMOSPHERE AND MUTUAL CONFIDENCE THROUGH ENDING THE STATE OF BELLIGERENCY, ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO THE 1967 BORDERS, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE.

8. ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA, THE PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED OUR POSITION THAT PLO FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AND RESOLUTION 242 WAS A SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO OUR DEALING WITH THE

PLO AND TO ITS PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA. IT WOULD HELP US OVERCOME THAT OBSTACLE IF THE PLO ACCEPTED RESOLUTION 242, PERHAPS WITH A RESERVATION ON THE POINT THAT RESOLUTION 242 ONLY TREATED THE PALESTINIANS AS REFUGEES. THE PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO HAVE A COMMONLY ACCEPTED BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND NOTED THAT RESOLUTION 242 WAS THE ONLY BASIS ACCEPTED BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY.

9. FAHD SAID THE PLO LEADERS WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A WEST BANK/GAZA STATE AND LIVE SIDE BY SIDE WITH ISRAEL. IT WAS DIFFICULT, HOWEVER, FOR THE PLO TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION 242 WITHOUT SOMETHING IN RETURN. FAHD ASKED WHETHER, IF THE PLO TOOK THIS STEP, ISRAEL WOULD RECOGNIZE A PALESTINIAN STATE. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR ISRAEL BUT SUCH A STEP WOULD FACILITATE THE EFFORTS OF THE U.S., WHICH MUST BE SENSITIVE TO THE INTERESTS OF
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BOTH SIDES AND WHICH IS COMMITTED TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY.

10. FOR LONDON: WE ARE BRIEFING BRITISH HERE.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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